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**Remarks**

This is in response to the Restriction Requirement of March 23, 2001, in the parent of the instant application, in which the claims were restricted into group I (claims 1-21), group II (claims 22-29) and group III (claim 30). Group II having been chosen in the parent case, this case is filed to pursue group I, and claims to the non-elected groups are cancelled herein, without prejudice or disclaimer.

In addition, claims 2-13 have been cancelled, either for the purpose of rewriting or simplifying the issues, to focus on ionic osmolytes, specifically salts.

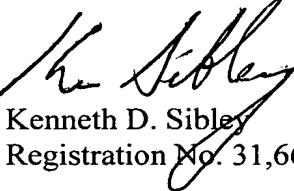
Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate claims 2-3 and to recite "at least one" salt, support for which is found in the specification at page 5 line 25 ("either a single salt or a combination of different salts may be used").

The newly added claims to particular anions, cations, and combinations of different salts are supported by the specification at page 4 line 15 to page 5 line 28.

It is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for substantive examination, which action is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made**"

Respectfully submitted,

  
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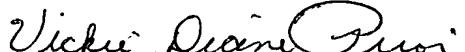
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Vickie Diane Prior

**Version with Markings to Show Changes Made**

1 (amended). A method for treating chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in a subject in need of such treatment, comprising administering [an] at least one osmotically active compound to an airway surface of the subject in an amount effective to increase the volume of liquid on the airway surface;

wherein the at least one osmotically active compound comprises at least one salt.

31 (new). A method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one salt comprises an anion selected from the group consisting of acetate, benzenesulfonate, benzoate, bicarbonate, bitartrate, bromide, calcium edetate, camsylate, carbonate, chloride, citrate, dihydrochloride, edetate, edisylate, estolate, esylate, fumarate, gluceptate, gluconate, glutamate, glycolylarsanilate, hexylresorcinate, hydrabamine, hydrobromide, hydrochloride, hydroxynaphthoate, iodide, isethionate, lactate, lactobionate, malate, maleate, mandelate, mesylate, methylbromide, methylnitrate, methylsulfate, mucate, napsylate, nitrate, pamoate, pantothenate, phosphate or diphosphate, polygalacturonate, salicylate, stearate, subacetate, succinate, sulfate, tannate, tartrate, teocluate, triethiodide, and bicarbonate,

32 (new). A method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one salt comprises an anion selected from the group consisting of sulfate, nitrate, gluconate, iodide, bicarbonate, bromide, and phosphate.

33 (new). A method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one salt comprises a cation selected from the group consisting of benzathine , chloroprocaine, choline, diethanolamine, ethylenediamine, meglumine, procaine, D-Lysine, L-lysine, D-arginine, L-arginine, triethylammonium, N-methyl D-glycerol, aluminum, calcium, lithium, magnesium, potassium, sodium, zinc, iron, and ammonium.

34 (new). The method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one salt comprises a cation selected from the group consisting of choline, lithium, meglumine, D-lysine, ammonium, magnesium, calcium, and potassium.

35 (new). A method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one salt comprises:

an anion selected from the group consisting of sulfate, nitrate, gluconate, iodide, bicarbonate, bromide, and phosphate; and

a cation selected from the group consisting of choline, lithium, meglumine, D-lysine, ammonium, magnesium, calcium, and potassium.

36 (new). A method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one salt comprises a single salt.

37 (new). A method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one salt comprises a combination of different salts.

38 (new). A method according to claim 37, wherein said different salts have a same anion.

39 (new). A method according to claim 37, wherein said different salts have a same cation.

40 (new). A method according to claim 37, wherein said salt comprises an anion and a cation, and wherein at least one of said anion and said cation are non-absorbable in relation to said airway surface.

41 (new). A method according to claim 37, wherein said salt comprises an anion and a cation, and wherein both of said anion and said cation are non-absorbable in relation to said airway surface.

42 (new). A method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one salt is selected from the group consisting of:

choline chloride, choline iodide, lithium chloride, meglumine chloride, L-lysine chloride, D-lysine chloride, ammonium chloride, potassium sulfate, potassium nitrate, potassium gluconate, potassium iodide, ferric chloride, ferrous chloride, potassium bromide, potassium phosphate, potassium bicarbonate, and sodium bicarbonate.

43 (new). A method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one salt is selected from the group consisting of:

potassium sulfate, potassium nitrate, potassium gluconate, potassium iodide, potassium bromide, potassium phosphate, and potassium bicarbonate.

44 (new). A method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one salt is potassium sulfate, potassium nitrate, potassium gluconate, potassium iodide, potassium bromide, potassium phosphate, and potassium bicarbonate.

45 (new). A method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one salt is potassium nitrate.

46 (new). A method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one salt is potassium gluconate.

47 (new). A method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one salt is potassium iodide.

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48 (new). A method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one salt is potassium bromide.

49 (new). A method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one salt is potassium phosphate.

50 (new). A method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one salt is potassium bicarbonate.

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